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RUEHIL/VOA ISLAMABAD PK
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI
RUEKJCS/DEFINTAGENCY WASH DC
RUFHVOA/VOA MUNICH GE
RUQMQF/FBIS NICOSIA CY
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EZ1:

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EZ2:

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TAKE 1 OF 2 -- PAPER REPORTS TAJIKISTAN CLASH WITH DUSHMAN INTRUDERS
PM281759

MOSCOW KRASNAYA ZVEZDA IN RUSSIAN 23 APR 87 FIRST EDITION P 4

((CORRESPONDENT MAJOR A. OLIYNIK REPORT: "BATTLE ON THE BANKS
OF THE PANJ. NOCTURNAL SKIRMISH CONTINUED FOR TWO HOURS BETWEEN
SOVIET BORDER GUARDS AND GANG OF DUSHMANS WHO CROSSED THE USSR
STATE BORDER"))

((TEXT)) AS HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN A TASS STATEMENT, ON
<> THE NIGHT OF 8-9 APRIL A GANG OF <><>AFGHAN<><> DUSHMANS VIOLATED THE
SOVIET BORDER, CROSSING THE PANJ RIVER AND ATTACKING A SOVIET
BORDER DETAIL. REPULSED, THE GANG PUT TO FLIGHT. TWO SOVIET
BORDER GUARDS DIED WHILE REPULSING THE ATTACK. OUR CORRESPONDENTS
HAVE BEEN TO THE AREA OF THE STATE BORDER WHERE THE DUSHMANS
COMMITTED THIS CRIMINAL ACTION.

THE HELICOPTER GUIDED BY THE EXPERIENCED HAND OF MAJOR
A. KASHIN, HOLDER OF THE ORDER OF LENIN, FLEW NORTH. WITH EACH
KILOMETER THE BREATH OF THE NEARBY PAMIR BECAME HARSHER. ALONGSIDE
PASSED THE PERPENDICULAR WALLS OF THE TORTUOUS MOUNTAIN PASS. THE
BORDERLINE LAY FAR BELOW, AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GORGE.

UNEXPECTEDLY THE MOUNDS OF ROCK PARTED TO REVEAL A VALLEY AND A
SHARP BEND IN THE PANJ. THE BANKS OF THE RIVER WERE BURIED IN
THICK, LUSH GRASS. AHEAD ON A GENTLY-SLOPING PLATEAU A HUGE
BOULDER WAS VISIBLE.

"THIS IS WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED, ON THIS SPOT," THE LEADER OF THE BORDER GUARD DETAIL WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING US SAID, POINTING WITH HIS FINGER, THE FIRST TO JUMP OUT OF THE HELICOPTER AS IT LANDED.

THE BORDER GUARDS CONSIDER THIS AREA OF THE BORDER IN THE SOUTH OF TADZHIKISTAN A COMPLEX ONE. FOR MANY KILOMETERS THERE ARE PRECIPITOUS CLIFFS WHERE THERE ARE NO ROADS OR PATHS TO BE FOUND. EVERYTHING IS COMPLEX HERE. AT THE GREAT ALTITUDE THE WATER IN A CAR'S RADIATOR FREEZES AND YOU CAN BARELY MUFFLE THE ENGINE. AND BLOOD BEGINS TO POUND IN THE TEMPLES SCARCELY ONE KILOMETER INTO THE JOURNEY

BY DAY OR NIGHT, IN ANY WEATHER, THE BORDER GUARDS VIGILANTLY PERFORM THEIR DIFFICULT DUTY. IN THIS RESPECT NOTHING WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE EVENING OF 8 APRIL.

PRIVATE A. KURKIN WAS ON LOOK-OUT DUTY, OCCUPYING HIS POSITION BY THE HUGE BOULDER, WHICH SHELTERED THE ENTRANCE TO THE GORGE. HE WAS SCANNING THE OPPOSITE BANK WITH PARTICULAR THOROUGHNESS. THIS WAS ALEKSEY'S LAST TOUR OF DUTY AS A BORDER GUARD. HE WAS COMING TO THE END OF HIS MILITARY SERVICE, WANTED TO RETURN TO HIS OWN "BOLSHEVIK" KOLKHOZ IN ROSTOV OBLAST, AND DREAMED OF STUDYING AT AN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE. WHO COULD HAVE THOUGHT THEN THAT IN A FEW HOURS THIS RUSSIAN LAD WOULD BE THE FIRST TO BAR THE GANG'S WAY INTO SOVIET TERRITORY.

IT WAS PRIVATE KURKIN WHO WAS THE FIRST TO DETECT THE ENEMY. THE BORDER GUARD RELEASED A SIGNAL ROCKET AND THEN BANDIT GUNFIRE EXPLODED THE NOCTURNAL SHADOWS. THE FIRST FIERY TRACES STRUCK SPARKS FROM THE BOULDER FROM WHERE KOMSOMOL MEMBER KURKIN FIRED TILL HIS LAST BREATH...

THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS CRIMINAL ACT DID NOT CHOOSE THEIR MOMENT BY CHANCE. IN AN ENDEAVOR TO HAMPER THE SETTLEMENT OF THE
<> SITUATION AROUND <><>AFGHANISTAN<><> AND WRECK THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION THERE, THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO FUEL THE TENSION ON THE USSR'S SOUTHERN BORDERS.

AS BECAME KNOWN, THE CRIMINAL ATTACK ON THE SOVIET BORDER GUARDS WAS PERPETRATED BY DUSHMANS BELONGING TO THE GANG OF A CERTAIN
<> "ENGINEER" NAMED BASHIR, WHO IS STEEPED IN THE BLOOD OF THE <><>AFGHAN<><>
<> PEOPLE UP TO THE ELBOW. <><>AFGHAN<><> ARMY UNITS SUPPORTED BY SUBUNITS OF THE LIMITED CONTINGENT OF SOVIET TROOPS HAD ROUTED BASHIR'S GANGS. THE LEADER HIMSELF MANAGED TO HIDE IN PAKISTAN. FOR OVER A YEAR HE LICKED HIS WOUNDS IN PESHAWAR. BUT WHEN THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE PROGRAM OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, BASHIR AND HIS GROUP OF HIRED KILLERS APPEARED ONCE AGAIN IN NORTHERN
<> <><>AFGHANISTAN<><>. "ON BEHALF OF HIS ADVISERS, BASHIR ANNOUNCED THAT WE WERE PREPARING TO ATTACK THE SOVIET BORDER," CAPTURED DUSHMAN MOHAMMAD AYOZ ((LAST NAME AS TRANSLITERATED)), WHO TOOK PART IN THE ATTACK, SAID. "WE WERE PROMISED A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FOR EVERY BORDER GUARD WE TOOK PRISONER AND WE WERE TOLD THAT WE COULD KEEP ALL THE WEAPONS WE CAPTURED."

(MORE) 23 APR [REDACTED]

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